

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application No. : 09/989,497 Confirmation No. : 2525
First Named Inventor : Yong YAO
Filed : November 21, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1647
Examiner : S. GUCKER
Docket No. : 100337.54295CP
Customer No. : 23911
Title : Gaq Protein Variants and Their Use in The Analysis
and Discovery of Agonists and Antagonists of
Chemosensory Receptors

RESPONSE TO ELECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action [Restriction Requirement] mailed December 14, 2004, Applicants elect with traverse Group IV, claims 23-31. As the species, Applicants elect the variant G_q protein contained in SEQ ID NO: 17. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner further extend the search to variant G_q proteins having at least 95% sequence identity thereto, which would encompass the variant G_q protein contained in SEQ ID NO: 19 which is the human counterpart to the variant G_q protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO:17.

The traversal is in part. Essentially, Applicants respectfully submit that groups I, II and IV should be examiner together since all of these groups require a specific variant G_q protein or nucleic acid sequence that encodes said variant G_q protein.

March 14, 2005

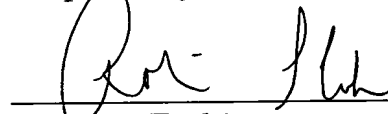
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the search for these groups would be substantially co-extensive.

If the Examiner has any questions relating to this application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned so that the prosecution may be expedited.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 100337.54295CP).

March 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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